

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

**GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS,
CHARITABLE BODIES AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SPORTS,
THE ARTS AND DISABILITY MATTERS 2021/22**1. Purpose of Report

To consider requests for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Applications and Financial Position

Details of the grant application received is included in the appendix for consideration. The amount available for distribution in 2021/22 is as follows:

	£
Revenue Grant Aid Budget	168,800
Less: Estimated requirements for:	
Citizen's Advice Broxtowe (#)	73,750
Rent Awards and Other Commitments	49,900
Less: Grant Awards to Date	250
BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION	<u>44,900</u>

(#) This includes provisions in respect of the applications from Citizen's Advice Broxtowe considered elsewhere on this agenda

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards in 2021/22 if the budget is not to be exceeded. The total 'cash' grants requested in this report are £19,500. The additional sums requested in this report, when compared to the previous year, would amount to £2,500 if all applications are fully supported.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Consider the request in appendix 1 and RESOLVE accordingly; and**
- 2. NOTE the grants awarded under delegated authority in appendix 2.**

Background papers

Nil

APPENDIX 1

Applications

The following grant applications have been received for consideration in 2021/22:

<u>Applicant</u>		<u>Grant Award 2020/21</u>	<u>Grant Request 2021/22</u>
		£	£
Rushcliffe CVS	1	7,000	7,000
Hope Nottingham	2	10,000	10,000
D H Lawrence Music Festival	3	Nil	2,500
		Total	19,500

The total request is made up of £19,500 in 'cash' from the balance available, with £nil being covered by a provision for rents and other commitments.

Volunteer Bureaux Category1. **RUSHCLIFFE COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SERVICE (RCVS)**

A request for grant aid has been received from Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service (RCVS) towards the continued voluntary and community sector infrastructure support for the Borough of Broxtowe.

Members will recall that the Council previously supported Voluntary Action Broxtowe (VAB) with grant aid towards these services. In 2020/21, the Council considered a joint grant aid bid from VAB and RCVS having received notice of VAB intending to cease operating in summer 2020. The volunteer brokerage service, along with the Volunteer Co-ordinator, then transferred and is now managed by RCVS. The role remains dedicated to Broxtowe.

RCVS was established in 1984 and is based at The Cotgrave Hub in Cotgrave. It is now the voluntary sector infrastructure support provider for Broxtowe and provides a wide range of practical and advice services for local voluntary and community groups across the Borough. There are currently 688 users of RCVS direct services, with 243 volunteers supporting its services in the last year.

The stated aims and objectives of RCVS are to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community principally (but not exclusively for Rushcliffe) and in particular, the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness and to promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of same and to that end to bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities within the area of benefit. RCVS provides advice, information and support to voluntary and community organisations across the area and delivers a range of health and social welfare services. It works closely with partner organisations across all sectors.

Volunteering plays a pivotal role in improving the health and well-being of local residents and increasing quality of life. This has been significantly apparent over the last year and has been critical to residents' health and wellbeing through the emergency response.

It is widely recognised that volunteers and volunteering has a significant impact on the local community, economy and health. Volunteers and organisations that engage them provide a vital service across Broxtowe. In many cases the services they provide extends or supports the services of statutory organisations and often fill a much-needed gap in health and social care. The benefits for volunteers include learning and developing new skills, interests and hobbies; engaging with communities and assisting with community cohesion; providing motivation and sense of achievement; increased employability; boosting confidence and self-esteem (according to research volunteering has increased health benefits including improved mental health and well-being); reducing isolation, combating stress and having a purpose (shared interests and new outlooks). Up to 75% of the volunteers matched through RCVS say that health and wellness is the reason for wanting to volunteer.

RCVS provide volunteer development with enhancing volunteering being key drivers for many funders and trusts. Maintaining the 'Volunteer Centre' in Broxtowe will ensure that RCVS and its local partners are well-placed to bid for funding, having relevant expertise and experience. Offering the opportunity to lever funding into Broxtowe for new services and opportunities for local residents (e.g. RCVS will provide the Public and Patient Engagement (PPE) contract for Broxtowe and Rushcliffe which is new for 2021).

RCVS has reached an agreement with Citizens Advice Broxtowe to host a regular Volunteer Centre presence and surgeries in their offices at Beeston and Eastwood (once it is safe to do so) ensuring reach into the community.

RCVS support Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) with the promotion of volunteering opportunities and ensuring they have the support needed to manage and support their volunteers, and good practice guidelines. RCVS relaunched its Volunteer Coordinators Network (VCN) in March 2020 with 19 organisations/ participants operating in Broxtowe. The VCN which meets termly and provides a network to share good practice raise issues pertinent to volunteering. A monthly e-bulletin is produced for VCN members.

RCVS also works with the PCNs and community champions. This has supported the establishment of neighbourhood/engagement groups in Beeston and Stapleford that can address local issues and/or develop new services in the local area according to need. RCVS also supports North Broxtowe Community Hub and established the Broxtowe Community Development Forum to enable additional communication mechanisms into the South Notts ICP Board.

RCVS involvement in Broxtowe Partnership Board – CVS Task and Finish Group in developing a strategy for the voluntary sector. A survey will be undertaken to understand local needs.

RCVS capture all data relating to volunteering and service delivery through its client management systems. Between March and November 2020, VAB suspended all activities due to lockdown, but continued to support around 40 volunteers via phone calls etc. Since the closure of VAB, all volunteers were signposted/transferred to other services and made aware of RCVS contact details should they wish to volunteer once lockdown eased.

Many VIOs across Nottinghamshire are reporting the loss of older volunteers, with many suspended their services/activities during the year and, as such, have not been promoting opportunities. However, many potential volunteers and organisations came forward locally to respond to the pandemic crisis, including mutual aid groups across Broxtowe.

RCVS in partnership with VAB generated and shared with the sector a specialist 'Covid' handbook which included practical information on how to steer and volunteer for a mutual aid groups (i.e. new and un-constituted groups who were operating without affiliation with an infrastructure organisation). The guidance included how to involve emergency volunteers; offering advice on safe and appropriate volunteering and related topics e.g. governance advice, securing PPE supplies for volunteers, offering support with funding applications. A survey of voluntary organisations, undertaken in July 2020 on the impact of the pandemic on these organisations, is to be revisited by the Task and Finish Group.

RCVS led on a mapping of the voluntary sector between July and October 2020. This data is subject to change as the sector faces one of the most challenging landscapes seen due to the impact of coronavirus. Due to emerging needs, government lockdown advice and associated stressors, many groups changed their functioning and opening times. Because of this rapidly shifting context, it was difficult to map data accurately at this time. The data, which was mapped into the relevant categories by area (Beeston, North Broxtowe, South Broxtowe and Broxtowe wide), identified 84 groups (including faith groups) and six mutual aid groups. All groups were contacted with RCVS details.

The RCVS South Notts Befriending scheme, which was started in Rushcliffe, is now being rolled out into the South of the County. The scheme currently supports 10 clients and recruited one volunteer in Broxtowe. A funding bid to expand the service was made to NHS Charities and the outcome is awaited. The bid includes other services including 'Walk and Talk' and well-being packs.

RCVS has provided its annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted and unrestricted funds. Total income generated in the year amounted to £192,599. This included £101,811 of unrestricted core funding from grants and donations, rent/room hire and sales income, including unrestricted funding from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (£35,683), Rushcliffe Borough Council (£15,000) and Nottinghamshire County Council (£11,796). Other sizeable restricted funding was received from

Nottinghamshire County Council (£37,840), the National Lottery Community Fund (£27,679) and Bailey Thomas (£20,000). RCVS currently receives NCC Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) funding until July 2021, although it is still awaiting a decision regarding LIS funding for 2021/22 onwards. Total expenditure amounted to £162,167, including £65,717 in respect of core funds. This mainly related to staff costs (£129,101 for an average 13 employees), rent and services, other premises expenses and general operating costs. Total cash and bank balances at 31 March 2019 was £262,184, including £202,453 held as an unrestricted fund.

RCVS state that adequate reserves are maintained to cover potential closure costs, project contingencies, general variations in income and cash flow and uncertainties regarding the short to long term impact of the pandemic (all estimated at £135,000). All other unrestricted reserves have been ring-fenced to address immediate deficits, develop new services and initiatives to improve longer term sustainability.

For 2021/22, Rushcliffe Community Voluntary Service has requested grant aid of £7,000 towards their general running costs to provide volunteer brokerage services and network development support across the Borough.

Members should note that the grant aid policy requires that grant awards of £5,000 or above may be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

Caring Organisations Category

2. HOPE NOTTINGHAM

Hope Nottingham is project that is operated from Hope House at the Boundary Road Community Centre in Beeston. The project has around 200 visitors each week, with 1,200 individuals benefitting from the service each year. Hope House has developed into a holistic community hub providing wide ranging support to help people out of crisis and empower them to contribute positively to their community.

The Hope Café was originally established in 2005 as part of Hope NG9, the Christian church working together to bring 'Hope to the NG9 area through social action, backed by prayer and word'. From 2010, local ministers agreed that Hope NG9 should be merged with Hope Nottingham. The charitable objects of Hope Nottingham are to advance the Christian faith and the relief of poverty, sickness and distress amongst the people of Nottingham and surrounding areas

Hope Nottingham provides a free, one-stop community support café, providing holistic support for homeless and vulnerably housed adults to overcome poverty crisis and entrenched deprivation. The project aims to meet basic needs of food, clothing and furniture, provide a listening ear and offer individual mentoring and support with a view to having a positive transformation on the lives of those in need and to enable the positive social re-integration of socially excluded people.

In addition to providing food and friendship, the project aims to mentor individual service users by providing life skills training and creative activities. The project also acts as a hub to which its users can directly access support from specialists on issues such as housing, debt, benefits, substance and alcohol abuse and health.

Hope Nottingham works with the Council, Police, Citizens Advice and other support agencies to meet the needs of its users and the local community. The various services are integrated together to enable those with complex needs to address several issues simultaneously, as the most effective way to make progress and to avoid them falling through gaps in service provision.

The facilities at Hope House extend to providing a Job Club to help the long-term unemployed back into work and a Youth Group that provides positive diversionary activities for young people.

The key headlines received from Hope Nottingham in 2020/21 include:

- Providing over 4,000 food parcels to around 1,500 households, plus 3,000 food parcels to replace free school meals over several weeks during the pandemic crisis for about 150 households.
- Supplying over £10,000 worth of financial assistance to buy specific items such as cookers and washing machines to 100 households
- Supported 35 people through the Linking Lives befriending service, which has been provided via weekly phone calls, returning to weekly visits when possible
- Providing more accessible independent information, advice and support for the most vulnerable Broxtowe residents
- Providing community based volunteer opportunities for local residents
- Providing employment support and training to enable service users to make progress in helping themselves out of poverty relating to welfare, low income, debt, unemployment, dysfunctional lifestyles, mental illness and domestic violence
- Directly supporting people in overcoming or avoiding homelessness, whilst others are indirectly supported by referral to mainstream services and partners
- Assisting local people in Broxtowe with getting housed
- Establishing two small in-house social enterprises teaching people practical skills and enabling them to begin earning an income
- Supporting long-term unemployed local residents through its Employment Pathway scheme. Users are referred to the Hope Job Club by the job centre and receive mentoring, work experience, skills training and job application support in creating positive CV's. This work has

assisted three long-term unemployed residents into work. Outcomes were impacted by the pandemic in 2020, but the Hope Job Club is operating again from Hope House and will hopefully return to Beeston and Stapleford libraries (and potentially other venues) in the near future.

Hope Nottingham has provided the latest accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020 for scrutiny. The charity separates its accounts between restricted fund and unrestricted funds. Total income generated amounted to £504,908 which mostly related to grants, donations and rental income from use of the church and centre. Significant restricted and unrestricted grants were received from DEFRA (£37,500), Grasiela (£34,000), D2N2 (£25,000), Trussell Trust (£18,347), Nottinghamshire Community Foundation (£15,363), Methodists Nottingham and Derby District (£13,200), Nottingham City Council (£10,000), Rathbone (£10,000) and this Council in addition to considerable grants and donations received from local businesses, church and community. Total expenditure amounted to £355,220 which included salaries and associated employer costs (£190,623 for an average of 10 employees with no employee receiving more than £60,000 during the period), premises expenses and other operating costs. Total funds as at 30 June 2020 were £192,977 including unrestricted funds of £140,177. Total cash at bank and in hand was £204,209.

In 2021/22, grants have been offered and/or received from 'Love Your Neighbour' Covid Recovery Grant (£47,500), Beeston Consolidated Charity (£18,000) and smaller grants from other Trusts. The charity continues to acknowledge the regular financial and volunteer support it receives from individuals, church and community, local businesses, local authorities and grant making organisations, without which it could not continue to operate.

The Council has regularly supported Hope Nottingham, with the grants awarded in the past five years being as follows:

2020/21	£10,000
2019/20	£10,000
2018/19	£4,000
2017/18	£4,000
2016/17	£4,000

For 2020/21, Hope Nottingham has requested a similar grant of £10,000 towards the general cost of operating the project (£4,000) and for the specific cost of running its Employment Pathway programme (£6,000).

Members should note that the grant aid policy requires that grant awards of £5,000 or above may be subject to a Service Level Agreement.

Miscellaneous Category

3. D H LAWRENCE MUSIC FESTIVAL (ROOTS LIVE MUSIC)

An application for grant aid has been received from Roots Live Music towards the cost of organising the D H Lawrence Music Festival 2021. Established in

2016, Roots Live Music is a voluntary and non-profit partnership of two dedicated enthusiasts that organise music festivals, 'open-mic' nights and a local music radio station.

The D H Lawrence Music Festival brings a full day of original music and culture to Eastwood, helping to promote one of its greatest talents, D H Lawrence. This annual festival promotes local songwriters and performers, bringing artists and music fans from across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire into the area, visiting the local pubs, bars, cafés and restaurants throughout the day. Around 6,000 people are estimated to have attended the festival in previous years. This all helps support local businesses, in particular the venues which host the event and the food establishments people visit throughout the day, hopefully generating some return business with new customers discovering a new venue.

The festival runs over the course of one day, bringing around 120 individual artists into the area, performing their original music. Eleven stages at venues across Eastwood have already signed up for the festival this year which takes place on 11 September 2021 (the birth date of D H Lawrence).

Roots Live Music have requested grant aid of £2,500 towards the cost of organising the festival. The grant will help with the cost of promotional material, decoration throughout venues (banners and other advertising), programmes and expenses payments to artists (£1,200) and organisers time (£350) with regards to organisation and on the day running of the event. Roots Live Music does not make any profit from the festival and in previous years have organised the event and produced posters, badges etc. from their own time and resources.

The voluntary partnership does not have a separate bank account nor has it previously maintained a separate budget or accounts for the event. Although the partnership is not formally constituted in a way that other larger voluntary and community groups are, officers are sufficiently assured that the 'not-for-profit' aims of the partnership and the promotional nature of this local event, with its links to music and the arts, is sufficient for the request to be considered for an award under the grant aid policy.

This is the first time the group has requested grant funding to help with costs. If Members were minded to support only a proportion of the grant then the budget for the event would be reduced accordingly, firstly from the budget paid to the organisers (as their first priority is the festival and the artists) but also the promotional material which would impact the reach in terms of bringing people to the festival.

This is the first application that the Council has received from Roots Live Music and for 2021/22, the group has requested grant aid of £2,500 towards the cost of the D H Lawrence Music Festival in September 2021.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED AWARDS

A summary of the grant awarded under delegated authority since April 2021 is included below. The Council's policy in respect of grant aid to voluntary organisations is to award the amount requested by the organisation or the maximum specified whichever is the lower. Additional consideration is given to groups who can demonstrate that they are meeting the particular needs of disadvantaged sections of the community.

All requests under £250 are considered under delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee. This includes applications from individuals involved with sport and the arts.

This Committee determines all requests for grants in excess of the £250 maximum.

Groups

Group	Total Members	Total Broxtowe Residents	Grant Award in 2020/21	Grant Award in 2021/22	Purpose of Grant Award
Kimberley Bowls Club	48	46	£200	£250	Purchase of four wooden benches within the club grounds for the benefit of players and visitors. Award from the Broxtowe Lotto Community Fund